(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what steps have been taken to protect the national carrier in the air fare game?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI):(a) and (b) The international fares are regulated by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) where all the airlines participate and pass unanimous resolution. The resolution is adopted by all countries.

Fleet requirements of AI and IA

1406. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the additional fleet reguirements of the Indian Airlines and Air India; and

(b) by when the induction of additional fleet is likely to be completed and at what cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI):(a) and (b) The Board of Directors of Indian airlines in its meeting held on 27.03.2002 approved the proposal for acquisition of 43 aircraft comprising A-319, A-320 and A-321 from Airbus Industries during the period 2003-04 to 2007-08 at a net cost of Rs.10,089 crores. The Project Report submitted by Indian airlines is under Government's consideration.

The Board of Directors of Air India in its meeting held on 8.11.2003 approved the proposal for acquisition of 10 medium capacity long-range (A340-300) and 18 small capacity short-range (B-737-800) aircraft at an estimated cost of Rs.10,589 crores. The Project Report relating to this proposal has not yet been received by the government.

No firm target date for completion of the acquisition process can be indicated at this stage, since the prescribed procedures for consideration of public investment proposals will have to be followed.

Purchase of Aircrafts by AI

1407. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the much delayed aircraft acquisition plan of Air India to purchase 28 aircrafts of Boeing and Airbus at a cost of $2.0 billion has now been cleared by the AI Board; and

(b) if so, how the airline plan to fund this acquisition and whether Government will stand guarantee for the loan seeing the financial position of AI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI):(a) and (b) The Board of Directors of Air India in its meeting held on 8.11.2003 approved the proposal for acquisition of 10 medium capacity long-range (A340-300) and 18 small capacity short-range (B-737-800) aircraft at an estimated cost of Rs.10,589 crores. As per international practice and as done earlier, Air India will raise funds for fleet acquisition through commercial borrowings in international/Indian market. The question of providing Government guarantee will depend on the nature of the proposal submitted by Air India.

Staff in Air India and Indian Airlines

1408. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of staff employed both in Air India and Indian Airlines and the categories which the staff is employed in;

(b) the yearly salary bill of both carriers during the last three years;

(c) whether Air India and Indian Airlines are currently overstaffed; if so, what steps are being taken over this issue; and

(d) the profits or losses made by Air India and Indian Airlines during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Category-wise staff in Air India and Indian Airlines are as under:

Air India

Category	Regular Staff	Staff on Foreign Scale of pay
Clerical	1453	198
Managerial	4897	133